

Talk No. 14 – Ladder use on Site

Reason for Talk

High level of compliancy when working off ladders leading to fatalities

Main Points

General

- ◆ Ladders must extend sufficiently beyond working platforms to allow for safe access/egress.
- ◆ Ladders must not be painted (this hides defects), should be stored correctly, and be subject to regular inspection.
- ◆ Never take serviceability for granted, always carry out a visual check prior to use. Report any defects immediately.
- ◆ Never carry out home made repairs on a ladder, and never use a ladder with existing home made repairs, and never use a home made ladder!
- ◆ Always stand ladders on a firm base. Never use milk crates, oil drums, etc., to gain extra height, and if ground is soft use suitable support. Consider staking at bottom.
- ◆ Never use rungs as a support for planks, or rest rungs on planks.
- ◆ Remove excessive mud, grease, etc., from footwear prior to climbing/descending a ladder.
- ◆ Always use both hands to climb/descend, and face the ladder.
- ◆ Do not carry loads up ladders – use hoists or alternatives.
- ◆ Never over reach from ladders – get down and move them.
- ◆ Avoid using metal ladders against metal surfaces – the reduced friction makes them more liable to slipping.
- ◆ Beware of overhead obstructions, especially overhead power lines (metal ladders/metal reinforcements).

On Site Safety

The presenter should outline / reiterate the site specific requirements of this particular site with regard to;

- ◆ Ladders are essentially a means of access/egress and should only be used as working platforms for very short duration tasks, where alternative platforms would be impracticable, and where such tasks can be carried out safely using a ladder.
- ◆ Only industrial class ladders should be used, which are in good condition (no missing/broken rungs, split stiles, etc).
- ◆ Ladders must be suitable angled (1 unit out for every 4 units up) and suitably secured (preferably tied off at the top using both stiles to prevent both sideways slip and rotation).

Questions

Presenter should request any questions from the audience

MAIN POINT FROM THIS SESSION

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE A LADDER CORRECTLY?

